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Barry Gray at 11:10 PM

CIA SEEN AS VILLIAN IN CUBAN INVASION ATTEMPT

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Barry Gray's guests at this point were Dr. Bernard Melish Professor of History at CCNY, and William Cotter, national organization director of 'Young Americans for Freedom', a conservative group.

Cotter spent a good deal of time describing his conservative viewpoint; he opposes TVA (centralized government); the social security system because it is not actuarially sound.

MELISH: "I'd like to raise--go back to a point which Mr. Cotter raised at the very beginning of the program which I think deals with one of the most tragic incidents in American foreign policy since President Kennedy took over. This is specifically with reference to Cuba.

"Mr. Cotter in referring to a side note of the Peace Corps meeting he attended recently in Washington, D. C., quoted what I think is a rather unreliable organization, unreliable in the sense that this organization seemed to take over the decision making power for the President of the United States, and this is the CIA.

"Now Mr. Cotter talks about defeating Communism. I would like to build up democracy throughout the world because I think that's the answer. I think the problems that we live with reference to the Soviet Union is a challenge rather than the threat Mr. Cotter refers to and the only way we're going to answer a challenge is by a positive response and that is by building up democracy and by accepting the social revolution which is taking place throughout the world whether we like it or not.

"I want to make very clear that in the--in the involvement in Cuba, which, by the way, will be a major topic for discussion at this weekend's national convention of my organization, the American Veterans' Committee, I think that President Kennedy made a tragic error when he permitted himself to be unduly influenced by the estimates of the CIA with reference to the situation in Cuba. And by what went on with the CIA keeping the executive council on its equivalent of the Cuban opposition to Castro incommunicado and didn't even know what was going on in Cuba.

"But my point is this: by permitting himself to be influenced by the CIA in its estimates, its proposals and by others who urged an invasion, we involved ourselves in the internal affairs of another country whether we liked it or not, which meant that we were following the very tactics and techniques in this particular instance of the Soviet Union and of Communist China--the nations we condemn and rightfully so.

"And as it goes to us that if we're going to continue in this manner, we're going to put right into the hands of Nikita Khrushchev in Russia and right into the hands of Mao Tse-tung and Chen En-lai in China."